

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1221 - SB 1164**

March 31, 2021

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the State Election Commission and each local county election commission that maintains a website to post the name of each voter who requested an application for an absentee ballot and whether the voter voted absentee. Requires the voter's digital or scanned signature to be linked with the voter's name.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$10,000**  
**/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years/Division of Elections**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$800,000**  
**/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years\***

**Assumptions:**

- There are 80 local county election commissions that currently maintain a website.
- The proposed legislation is not specific as to whether the State Election Commission and county election commissions are required to maintain a cohesive database on their websites or only the names of voters residing in the respective counties.
- Election statistics are available on the Secretary of State website beginning in 1991; it is assumed that the absentee voter names and signature copies will be retained indefinitely.
- The State Election Commission and each of the 80 county election commissions will be required to obtain electronic signature software, pay for additional server space, and contract the website upgrade to a county IT department or third-party vendor.
- Parascript, a software company that provided electronic signature approval and retention software to Colorado counties during the November 2020 election, states the software costs \$7,000 annually.
- It is assumed that the State Election Commission and each local county election commission that maintains a website will incur an increase of expenditures exceeding \$10,000 to purchase software, maintain servers, and contract IT services to adhere their websites to the provisions of the proposed legislation.
- An annual increase in state expenditures to the Division of Elections, beginning in FY21-22 and subsequent years, exceeding \$10,000.
- A mandatory annual increase in local expenditures, beginning in FY21-22 and subsequent years, exceeding \$800,000 (\$10,000 x 80 counties).

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The script is cursive and fluid.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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